

COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JUDGE MYRON THOMPSON FOUR WEEK JURY TRIAL BEGINNING FEBRAURY 22, 2022	
1. Resource for Protocol	<p>The CDC website, under the Workplace and Businesses section has an interactive component for Workplace Prevention Strategies. In that section there is a portal entitled Covid-19 County Check. The portal allows one to enter the State and County information which will then provide the inquiring party with a. the transmission level for that county, and b. recommendations for the work environment based upon the current level.</p> <p>There are four levels for transmission – Low, Moderate, Substantial and High.</p> <p>It is my recommendation that you rely upon the CDC for guidance and mask protocol for the trial setting. Today, February 17, 2022, the recommendation for Montgomery County, Alabama is that <b><i>everyone should wear a mask in public indoor settings</i></b> since the local transmission rate is noted as High.</p> <p>Note: National and local media outlets are reporting that the CDC will likely update their masking and safety protocol soon. Several corporations are relaxing the protocol for fully vaccinated persons, but seem to keep the masking requirements for unvaccinated persons, i.e. Walmart employees.</p>
2. Protocol for those given permission to not wear a mask in court, or in court-related areas.	<p>If you choose to follow the CDC guidelines, but allow select persons to not wear a mask, it seems prudent to require a testing regiment to those persons, including counsel, witnesses and court staff allowed to be unmasked for any reason, under the current CDC guidelines. Persons who wear a mask would not need to be tested. Policing this will be the issue, but the Court can require the witness coordinator for each team to handle counsel and their witnesses. The Jury Administrator can coordinate staff masks and necessary tests for staff persons. The self-administered test results will be provided to the CRD each day for the Court's information. These can be adjusted should the CDC guidelines change, as masking changes will likely pivot on vaccination status.</p>
3. Supplies and Room for Counsel	<p>Masks and testing kits will be available in the designated room (Room 5 - PHARMACY) across</p>

	<p>the hall from the courtroom. The pharmacy room will have test kits and N95 masks available on the “honor system” for all participants, jurors, counsel and court staff. If you approve, I will send counsel an overview of the room assignments and the Court’s expectations of protocol, including testing and other arrangements. The attending Courtroom Deputy can advise court participants each morning that masks are available (one per week) to all designated persons, and the Jury Administrator can work with the jury members and court staff to provide each of them with an N95 mask each week, pursuant to the current requirements and protocol adopted by the Court each week/day as the trial progresses.</p> <p><i>The Johnson Library</i> - jury room, for breaks and lunch. Three tables, and room for them to spread out when in that space for lunch, breaks or deliberations.</p> <p><i>Room 5</i> will be identified with signage as the Pharmacy and will contain the masks and testing kits. Honor system will apply</p> <p><i>Room 4</i> will be offered to the defense.</p> <p><i>Room 2</i> will be offered to the government.</p> <p>The Attorney Lounge is also available.</p> <p>Tables and chairs are currently in each of the noted spaces and will remain open during the duration of the trial.</p>
<b>4. Persons who become ill during trial</b>	<p>Should someone fall ill or feel they have a symptom during the trial, they shall be directed by the Courtroom Deputy to the jury room (not the Johnson Library) for a self-administered test with results made available to the CRD who will then inform the Court. Should a positive test result, we can use the jury room for a quarantine area for that person until contract tracing can be quickly achieved.</p>
<b>5. Supplies</b>	<p>The Jury Administrator will need to take a daily update on supplies (masks and tests) and refresh the same based upon usage.</p>

<b>6. Vaccination Status</b>	<p>As the CDC guidelines change, the Court will likely be faced with the issue of vaccination status which will then impact mask requirements and possibly testing issues. We have representations on vaccination status from counsel, but not on witnesses. In fairness to the Court and all participants, I think it is prudent that the Court is aware that some employees in the Clerk's Office are not vaccinated, and it is possible that they will be involved in some aspects of these proceedings.</p>